

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 087450

70

ORIGIN OES-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02

DLOS-03 NSF-01 DODE-00 OFA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03

SS-15 SP-02 FEA-01 NEA-09 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /108 R

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OES/OFA:JBARNES
OES/ENP/EN:LGRANT
NSF:JHEG (INFO)
DOD:MALENSON (INFO)
IO/SCT:CAVANAUGH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION USUN NEW YROK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087450

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PAGE 02 STATE 087450

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: UNEP, SENV, XV

SUBJECT: UNEP GC: DISCUSSION OF ANTARCTICA

REF: STATE 81609

FOR USREP TO UNEP GC.

INFO: GENEVA FOR LOS DEL

1. BRITISH EMBASSY TODAY DELIVERED AIDE MEMOIRE TO DEPARTMENT CONTAINING PROPOSED TEXT ON ANTARCTICA WHICH UK IS CONTEMPLATING TABLING IN ABBREVIATED FORM AT APRIL 21 MEETING OF UNEP GC FOR INCLUSION IN FINAL REPORT. BRITISH ACTION PROMPTED BY CONCERN OVER PARAS 222 AND 223 OF UNEP/GC/31, BY SWEDISH COMMENTS AT APRIL 11 MEETING OF BRUSSELS GROUP IN LONDON AND, BY REPORT THAT UNEP EXDIR PLANNED TO MENTION ANTARCTICA IN OPENING SPEECH AT UNEP GC MEETING. UK SOUGHT OUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. A SIMILAR DEMARCHE HAS BEEN MADE IN CAPITALS OF ANTARCTIC TREATY SIGNATORIES AND IN STOCKHOLM SINCE SWEDES EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR UNEP ANTARCTIC ROLE AT BRUSSELS GROUP MEETING. FULL TEXT OF UK DRAFT BEING SENT BY SEPTEL (NOTAL). BRITISH DOCUMENT LARGELY PARALLELS THE POINTS IN USDEL'S POSITION PAPER AND INSTRUCTION ON ANTARCTIC ISSUE.

2. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER STATED THAT UK AIM IS TO INSURE, IF POSSIBLE, THAT DELEGATIONS FROM ANTARCTIC TREATY SIGNATORY COUNTRIES AT UNEP MEETING ADOPT A COMMON POSITION OPPOSED TO ANY MENTION BY UNEP OF TREATY REVISION OR EXTENSION BUT OPEN TO CONSIDERATION OF SOUNDLY BASED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS, IN LINE WITH UNEP'S PROPER INTEREST, PURSUED THROUGH THE ICSU COMMITTEE ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (SCOPE), IN WHICH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTICA (SCAR) PARTICIPATES.

3. UK BELIEVES THAT THE UNEP PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE ANTARCTIC TREATY (OR ANY OTHER TREATY) IS NOT WITHIN CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 087450

THE UNEP'S COMPETENCE, AND THAT SURVIVAL OF THIS PROPOSAL IN ANY FORM WOULD CREATE A MOST UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT. UK BELIEVES THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DISPUTED AND UNRECOGNIZED SOVEREIGNTIES IN ANTARCTICA, AND THE DELICATE BALANCE OF INTERESTS THERE MAINTAINED BY THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, THE REST OF THE WORLD'S BEST INTEREST IN THE AREA ARE BEST SERVED BY ACCEPTING THE TREATY AND AFFECTING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA BY WORKING THROUGH THE STATES ACTIVE IN ANTARCTICA.

4. IT IS DEPARTMENT'S VIEW, WHICH WAS CONVEYED VERBALLY TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY, THAT THE US AND UK POSITIONS ARE SIMILAR IN ALL ESSENTIAL RESPECTS. THE U.S. WOULD

PREFER TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF ANTARCTICA AT UNEP BUT UK SEEMS CONVINCED THAT GC DISCUSSION INEVITABLE. IF THE ISSUE COMES UP IN GC DESPITE OUR CONCERTED EFFORT TO PREVENT DISCUSSION THEN WE WOULD PREFER ORAL PRESENTATION OF POINTS CONTAINED IN UK DRAFT PARAGRAPHS AND U.S. INSTRUCTION. IF, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WE AND UK CONCLUDE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE A DOCUMENTED STATEMENT OF OUR VIEWS, WE WOULD PREFER SOME AMENDMENT OF BRITISH PROPOSAL TO LESSEN EMPHASIS ON SUPPOSEDLY LEGITIMATE UNEP INTERESTS. US DEL SHOULD COORDINATE ITS EFFORTS WITH UK, AND OTHER DELS FROM TREATY SIGNATORY

STATES AS APPROPRIATE, TO BOIL DOWN UK DRAFT, PREFERABLY TO INCLUDE CONCEPT OF LAST PARA OF STATE 81609.

5. IF FOREGOING DOES NOT PUT ISSUE TO REST, AND IF LANGUAGE ON ANTARCTICA IN GC DECISIONS IS COMPLETELY UNAVOIDABLE, US DEL COULD ACCEPT TEXT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL:

- (1) TAKES NOTE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON ANTARCTIC RESEARCH (SCAR) IN THREE OF THE MAJOR MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTS BEING CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (ICSU) UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE ON PROBLEMS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (SCOPE).

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 087450

- (2) SUGGESTS THAT UNEP COOPERATE AS APPROPRIATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES.

6. FYI: UK EMBASSY ALSO INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT RESULTS OF UK DEMARCHES IN TOKYO INDICATE THAT JAPANESE DEL HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN DELETION OF ANTARCTICA ITEM (PARAS 222 AND 223 OF UNEP/GC/31) FROM AGENDA. JAPANESE ARE ALSO MAKING DEMARCHES IN TREATY SIGNATORY CAPITALS, ACCORDING TO UK EMBASSY, WHICH UNDERSTANDS THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY IN CANBERRA REPORTED THAT AUSTRALIANS INDICATED GREATER WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE UNEP THAN THE JAPANESE. KISSINGER

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